

CONCISE SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

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Specific Legal Authority Authorizing the promulgation of
Rule: Miss. Code of 1972, Sec. 79-22-13

Reference to Rules repealed, amended or suspended by the
Proposed Rule:
N/A

An Economic Impact Statement is required for this propose rule by Section 25-43-3.105 of the Administrative Procedures Law. This is a Concise Summary of the Economic Impact Statement which must be filed with the Notice of Proposed Rule Adoption in the Secretary of States Office. The full text of the Economic Impact Statement may be obtained from the agency contact person at the above address.

Persons may present their views by submitting written comments on the proposed rule adoption to the agency contact person at the above address. Additional information on where, when and how persons make may present their views or demand an oral proceeding on the proposed rule are included in the Notice of Proposed Rule Adoption to which this is attached.

a. Description of the need for and the benefits of the proposed rule:

Proposed rule serves as guidelines for administration of Aquaculture Block Grants provided to hurricane affected states for damage due to 2005 hurricanes.

b. Cost estimate to the agency and other state or local government entities:

Costs are personnel related and estimated at less than \$5,000.00.

c. Estimate of the cost or economic benefit to all persons:

Approximately \$10.7 million will be distributed to aquaculture producers who suffered losses due to 2005 hurricanes.

d. Analysis of the impact on small business:

Catfish operations, other producers of non-catfish species and aquaculture related businesses will be positively impacted.

e. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rule to the probable costs and benefits of not adopting the rule:

Proposed rule is adopted and placed on record for public notice.

f. Determination as to whether less costly or less intrusive methods exist to achieve the purpose of the rule:

N/A

g. Description of reasonable alternative methods and reasons for rejection of the alternative methods:

N/A

h. Data and methodology in making the estimates in the economic impact statement:

Funds provided by USDA.

Date Rule Proposed: September 15, 2006

Proposed Effective Date of Rule: November 11, 2006



Chief, Regulatory Division

2006 Aquaculture Assistance Program Guidelines

Grants to Small Producers of Non-Catfish Species

- All aquaculture producers of non-catfish species are statutorily required to be licensed by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (except for turtles and alligators which are licensed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks). The vast majority of non-catfish species producers in Mississippi are located in coastal counties. Most suffered both production and structural losses to varying degrees.
- By using the license databases, applications are delivered to each producer through certified mail.
- In completing the application, producers are required to certify they meet the following conditions:
 - In production on August 29, 2005.
 - Raise aquaculture species in a controlled environment as part of a farming operation that has a risk in the production of such species.
 - Suffered a loss due to 2005 hurricanes.
 - Received no other assistance for the same aquaculture loss.
- Producers claim amount of losses in the application and are required to attach supporting documents. Application is signed by the producer and notarized.
- MDAC reviews applications.
- Maximum payment is not to exceed \$80,000 per farming operation.

Grants to Catfish Producers

- Catfish producers are primarily located in the Mississippi Delta and in East Central Mississippi. Catfish producers throughout Mississippi experienced more uniform losses due primarily, but not limited to, wind erosion and loss of production.
- Applications for assistance to catfish producers due to damage from 2005 hurricanes are distributed to feed providers, USDA – Farm Service Agency offices, and are made available online on the MDAC website.
- In completing the application, producers are required to certify that they meet the following conditions:
 - In production on and before August 29, 2005.
 - Raise aquaculture species in a controlled environment as part of a farming operation that has a risk in the production of such species.
 - Suffered a loss due to 2005 hurricanes.
 - Suffered an aquaculture loss and has records to verify the loss and will keep records for up to 3 years.
 - Received no other assistance for the same aquaculture loss.
- Producer enters the amount of feed purchased in 2005, and the feed provider certifies feed purchases. Application is signed by the producer and notarized.
- Applications are mailed to MDAC for review.
- MDAC reviews applications and calculates payment rate based on per ton of feed purchased.
- Each farming operation that meets the above conditions, purchased feed in 2005, and experienced losses due to 2005 hurricanes is eligible for payment up to the amount of losses sustained, not to exceed \$80,000.